Insurance cover for devotees of Dakshineshwar Temple

2808. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of insurance cover for devotees of Dakshineshwar Temple;

(b) if so, whether it is proposed to introduce insurance cover for devotees visiting important and famous temples considering terrorist threat there;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Board of Trustees of Dakshineshwar Temple has taken an insurance cover for this purpose.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Questions do not arise.

Inclusion of 'Maithili' language in eighth Schedule

†2809. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to include the 'Maithili' language, which is spoken by a large number of people in several districts including "Mithlanchal" of Bihar, in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution;

(b) the details of the committee constituted to include the different languages in the Eighth Schedule and whether 'Maithili' is being considered by the Committee for the said purpose; and

(c) if so, the progress in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (c) Requests have been received to include Maithili Language in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

As no parameters have been laid down for inclusion of more languages in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution, a decision has been taken to constitute a High Powered Body for laying down such a criteria for inclusion of more languages in the Eighth Schedule. Action to constitute the proposed Body has already been initiated and the matter about inclusion of Maithili language in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution would be considered in accordance with the criteria so evolved.

Success in resolving insurgency in Assam

2810. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have achieved any remarkable success in resolving the insurgency and militant problems of Assam; and

(b) the Government initiative in case of United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) and National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) According to available information, the number of violent incidents in the State of Assam has come down from 458 in 2001 to 412 in 2002. The Government have entered into ceasefire agreements with militant outfits such as United Peoples Democratic Solidarity (UPDS) and Dima Halam Daogah (DHD) operating in Assam. Government have also signed a Memorandum of Settlement with Bodo Liberation Tigers (BLT) on the 10th February, 2003 to resolve Bodo issues.

(b) The Government have extended an invitation to all those who have strayed from the paths of togetherness to come forward for talks within the framework of our Constitution. The United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) and National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) have yet to come forward for peace talks.

Objectives for constituting Hindi Salahkar Samities

†2811. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.